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PRACTICAL REMARKS.

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BY

JAMES EYRE, M.D.

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PRACTICAL REMARKS  
ON SOME  
EXHAUSTING DISEASES.

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*D. Newell Jr.*

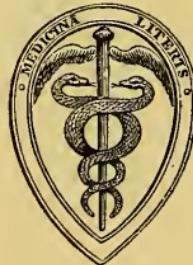
# PRACTICAL REMARKS ON SOME EXHAUSTING DISEASES.

BY

SIR JAMES EYRE, M.D.

LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;  
SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S  
DISPENSARY.

"Longum iter cst (ad scientiam) per praecepta; breve et efficax  
per exempla."—SENECÆ Epist. vi.



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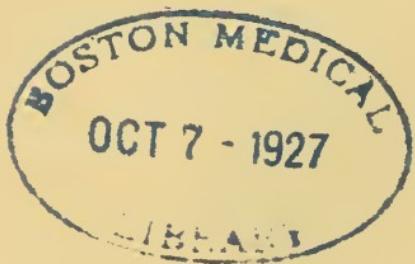
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TO

SIR CHARLES MANSFIELD CLARKE, BART.

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MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

IT has always been to me a source of extreme gratification, that I had the good fortune in early life to be instructed in the diseases of women and children by yourself. I have endeavoured to show my sense of obligation, since I cannot make you any adequate return for your kindness to me on numberless occasions, by dedicating to you this my first literary essay, and wishing that you may long enjoy the entire regard of the Medical Profession which you have so long possessed and so well deserved,

I am,

My dear Sir Charles,

Your sincere friend and faithful servant,

JAMES EYRE.

A



## P R E F A C E.

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THE Author of the following observations makes no apology for presenting them to the medical public. Having been, during many years, physician to an important public charitable institution, and in consequence had, from that source alone, ample opportunities of acquiring practical information, he regards it as a duty to communicate, for the general good, any knowledge which he, from time to time, may acquire. In the present instance he has endeavoured to bring into prominent notice a successful treatment of certain maladies, which are frequently found very difficult of cure; and he trusts that this contribution to therapeutics, these tentative trials, will be kindly received by his working professional brethren—especially by those who, like himself,

are far advanced in their arduous career, and who must be well aware that the actual treatment of disease is at once the most important and the most defective department of medicine.

*Lower Brook-street,*

*March, 1845.*

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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SIX years have now elapsed since the first impression of this book was presented to the notice of medical men. The warm interest which has been so indisputably taken, by the friends of the Author, as well as by the profession generally, in his first notice to them of an invaluable medicine, *claimed* from him a long additional course of minute and diligent observation. The reader will not fail to perceive, that the promise made at the conclusion of the first edition has been faithfully kept, thereby furnishing solid materials for this second, it is believed more than confirmatory report—*e. g.*, “In addition to its value (the oxide of silver) in gastrodynia, pyro-

sis, hæmoptysis, hæmatemesis, and in the first and second classes of menorrhagia of Dr. Fleetwood Churchill, it will be found to be productive of infinite benefit in restraining, when absolutely necessary, hæmorrhage proceeding from the intestinal canal, obstinate chronic diarrhœa, colliquative perspirations, leucorrhœa, and other maladies, in the treatment of which the writer is at present extensively testing its efficacy.” The rigid test of experience, then, of several years, on an abundantly large scale, in public and in private, has proved, to the conviction of the Author, that, as an astringent and tonic, there is no such medicine in the whole catalogue of remedial means as the oxide of silver, in all diseases attended by chronic discharges of blood. Much valuable testimony will very shortly be communicated to the medical public as to the efficacy of this medicine in dyspepsia and disorders of the alimentary canal. The present volume is necessarily dedicated, almost exclusively, to the interesting

subject of slow and exhausting hæmorrhages, with some few other diseases, in the management of which the writer has, during the last few years, acquired much additional experience.

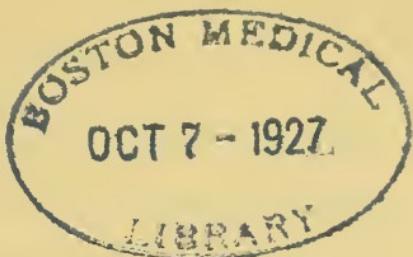
*Lower Brook-street,*

*May, 1851,*

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## PRACTICAL REMARKS,

ETC.

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THE object of this Essay will be attained if the writer shall succeed in inducing others to give a fair trial to a comparatively novel remedy in the slowly exhausting hæmorrhage from mucous surfaces, especially in atonic menorrhagia, in chorea sancti vitæ, in leucorrhœa, and also in epilepsy, which diseases, though arising from various causes, and often most perplexing to the practitioner, will, it is confidently predicted, become henceforth as amenable to treatment, as they have been hitherto rebellious and unmanageable.

In these pages it will be seen that no claim to the announcement of a new medicine is assumed; on the contrary, the merit of its first formal introduction is given, as it belongs, to

another ; but the author does consider that he \* is entitled to the credit of having availed himself of the ample means of investigation which he possessed, and to having devoted his unremitting attention to the subject during a period of nearly ten years. He now desires to promulgate, in a more comprehensive and convenient form than the pages of a weekly journal would allow, the satisfactory results at which he has arrived.

A medical man very actively engaged in practice has not much time for study ; he will be performing a duty, however, which he owes to society and to himself by attentively reading all the periodicals relating to medicine which are published in the United Kingdom : this will not be difficult, for they are not very numerous, and he will assuredly obtain much practical information from this salutary and useful occupation. This work now presented to the public may be

\* “That man is not the discoverer of any art (or medicine?) who first says the thing—but he who says it so long, and so loud, and so clearly, that he *compels* mankind to hear him,” &c.—Rev. SIDNEY SMITH’s *Works*, vol. ii. p. 172.

adduced as one instance of the advantage of attending to the periodical literature of the day. During seven years' practice as physician to a public institution in this metropolis, the writer encountered, in a great number of instances, a difficulty, which, however, he had often before experienced, in restraining the atonic species of uterine haemorrhage, which, whether it be the result of unduly prolonged menstruation, a sequel of labour, or of abortion, as occurring during pregnancy, or as caused by organic lesion, will, if not suppressed, eventually destroy the patient. In the summer of 1841, whilst searching for information and guidance, his attention was arrested by an article in one of the leading\* hebdomadals, written by Charles B. Lane, Esq., then a London surgeon, on some newly ascertained properties of the oxide†

\* *Lancet*, July 10th, 1841.

† The oxide of silver may be prepared as follows : Dissolve nitrate of silver in boiling distilled water, and add to the solution, while hot, pure solution of potassa, until no further precipitation ensues ; wash the precipitate with distilled water till it exhibits no alkaline reaction, and then carefully dry it in a water bath. The Dublin *Pharmacopœia*, just published, gives a different formula.

of silver, not only in the cases just alluded to, but in certain other ailments. Mr. Lane refers to a paper published by himself a year before in a Quarterly Review,\* a perusal of which tells us that M. Serre, of Montpellier, believes the oxide to possess power as an anti-syphilitic, the dose being from half a grain to six grains in twenty-four hours, adding, that it is not a caustic when applied outwardly, but differs as much from nitrate of silver, as chloride of mercury does from the bichloride. Its usefulness was proved in gastrodynæ, pyrosis, menorrhagia, hæmorrhage from the bowels, in diarrhœa, in one case of irritable bladder, and in another where there was colliquative perspiration; its effects are stated to have been speedy, and they were produced without a single bad symptom. Dr. Golding Bird is reported to have tried it in one hundred cases, and “thinks well of it in menorrhagia,” considering its properties to be tonic, and, to a certain extent, sedative. The late Dr. Clendinning, physician to the St. Mary-

\* Dr. James Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical for 1840. Mr. Braithwaite's Retrospective, vol. i. art. 75.

lebone Infirmary, thought it useful in epileptic and gastralgic affections. Dr. Ryan also gave the same opinion. Lastly, a statement of Mr. Lane's implies that in two instances it seemed to facilitate impregnation, in consequence, it is presumed, of its inducing a healthier state of the uterus, *on which it assuredly acts specifically.* The result of the writer's observation has been fully confirmatory of the high character here given of the oxide ; it has been administered by him in a vast number of cases, the records of most of which have been kept, and it is now intended to present such a selection from them, as may enable just and candid judges to compare its action with that of other remedial means which have been too often hitherto ineffectually employed. The general directions in all the cases were, for the patients to abstain from alcoholic stimuli, as well as from hot potations, with as much repose of body and tranquillity of mind as could by possibility be attained.

As the leading object of the author of these pages is to set forth the great power of the oxide of silver in slow debilitative hæmorrhages, he purposes, in

accordance with the resolution just expressed, to give one or more illustrations of its efficacy on the various localities of our bodies which are furnished with mucous membrane, and begins with two of epistaxis, one occurring in his own practice, the other in that of a friend.

#### CASE I.

H. W., aged 55, living in Gilbert-street, Oxford-street, applied April 10, 1847. Ceased to be unwell three years ago; has bled at the nose every day, more or less, during the last three months. On the Good Friday of this year, the hæmorrhage lasted eight and a half hours. This patient consulted an experienced surgeon, who gave her medicine to excite constant nausea, ordered cold applications to the head, but as he wished to bleed her largely, and she would not consent, she sought relief elsewhere. Being costive, the following pills were prescribed:— $\text{B} \circ$  Pilul. Rhei Comp. 3j., Olei Tigliai mij. fiant pilul. xij., sumat i. vel. ij. quotidie alvo adstrictu. She commenced, also, to take half-grain doses of the oxide in gr. v. P.

Tragac. C. thrice daily. Her diet was regulated ; *there was no bleeding afterwards* ; the plan was continued during a fortnight.

## CASE II.

*From H. T. Chapman, Esq., F.R.C.S.*

On the 16th January, Mrs. C. requested me to see her cook, who had been annoyed during three or four days with repeated bleedings from the nose. When I visited her, I found that the haemorrhage had continued almost without intermission for about four hours ; her pulse was hard, and she had complained of drowsiness for some weeks. I ordered her a pretty active aperient, to be taken daily, and told her that the loss of blood would benefit her. It continued, however, at intervals during the 17th and 18th ; her pulse was then softer, and I prescribed half-grain doses of the oxide of silver, to be taken three times a-day. No haemorrhage occurred after the 19th, and she has since been quite well.

H. T. C.

Lower Seymour-street, March 27th, 1851.

*Hæmoptysis and Hæmatemesis* can scarcely ever occur at repeated short intervals without exciting anxiety in the mind of the attending practitioner, though the danger is not so great as Professor Alison and others have observed when the hæmorrhage is vicarious. A year's observation of M. Louis' practice at La Pitié, in Paris, in 1812, satisfied the author as to the correctness of the opinion entertained by this great pathologist, namely, that when a succession of sanguineous sputa or coagula are ejected from the lungs, tubercles will probably be found to exist. Admitting this to be the fact, it is, nevertheless, believed, with the late regretted editor of the "Medico-Chirurgical Review," and a deceased learned northern professor,\* that hæmoptysis should be checked as soon as possible. In hæma-

\* The late amiable and talented Dr. Fletcher, of Edinburgh, on whose premature grave we would fain, in association with all who knew him, drop a parting tear. This gifted individual directed the studies of many physicians and surgeons, who are second to none in this metropolis, and he enjoyed, in common with Mr. Abernethy, and some few other lecturers, the enthusiastic affection of his pupils to an extent almost unparalleled.

temesis there can be no doubt of the necessity of the prompt suppression of the haemorrhage. It must be allowed, however, that it is sometimes difficult at first to distinguish whether the blood proceeds from the mucous membrane of the bronchi or of the stomach; still it is considered that the treatment should be mainly conducted on the same general principles. When the pulse indicates a plethoric state of the system, and there is much arterial action, it is scarcely necessary to say that blood should first be taken, either generally or topically, according to the age and constitution of the patient, *before having recourse to astringents*. Mental irritation or excitement must be guarded against, and active bodily exercise forbidden; one daily evacuation from the bowels especially insisted upon, with the free use of cold or even iced drinks; this, and an adherence to an unstimulating and nutritive diet, will pave the way for the employment of a preparation which, though but recently recorded among our palliative means, will, ere long, it is confidently anticipated, take rank as the most

effectual of them all. Would that we could claim for it a more exalted position than that of being a positive curative agent. Women are much more subject to hæmoptysis than men. M. Louis says, “Le sexe avait une influence marquée sur l'hæmoptysie; on l'observait plus souvent chez les femmes que chez les hommes, dans la proportion de trois à deux. Ainsi, de quarante-deux femmes soigneusement interrogées sous ce rapport, trente-six avaient eu des crachements de sang, et sur trente-huit hommes vingt-et-un seulement étaient dans ce cas.” Another of the most careful and trustworthy of French physicians, M. Chomel, has found that sanguineous discharges take place more frequently in cold than in warm weather: this observation, derived from a sound service, will help to guide us in our treatment, as to the regulation of temperature, &c. It is surprising how long hæmorrhage may continue without loss of flesh. The author saw a woman at La Pitié, in May, 1832, who had brought up blood daily during ten years, and had not decreased much in size, but at this period she had great

pain whenever the cardiac region was percussed, and there was a slight degree of resonance of the voice commencing. Another case was observed about the same time at the Hôtel Dieu, in which blood was vomited every day at the *same hour*. The French treatment of hæmoptysis resembles our own, though the doses on the other side of the Channel must be allowed to be less "heroic" than those of British practitioners. Diacetate of lead, in England in two or three grain doses, in much larger ones in Edinburgh and Dublin, duly combined with opium, has been generally found to be of the greatest use. In hæmatemesis, Dr. Home trusted to the oil of turpentine and the resins. Dr. Cheyne of Dublin advises common salt in water as an immediate remedy, then Tartar Emetic with Nitrate of Potash and Pulv. Ipecac. (grs. ij.) every quarter of an hour till the effusion ceases, then every half hour; lastly, 3j Diacet. Plumbi, with a grain of opium, for a dose, or a mixture of sulphuric acid with opium, assisted by purgatives and blisters, and small bleedings at intervals, which he continues for months, as a

prophylactic. He regards the hæmorrhage, as did Dr. Fletcher, as often induced by inflammation of the left side of the heart. In all cases the pulse must be sedulously watched. Ergot of rye has, by some practitioners, been found to be valuable. The following instance of its efficacy is reported in one of the periodicals\* as having occurred in the practice of Dr. Roupell, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital :—“A young sailor, aged 21, applied, having pain in the chest, and cough, free expectoration of puriform mucus mixed with blood ; on auscultation, a cavity was found in the upper part of the right lung. He began by taking diluted sulphuric acid thrice daily without relief ; leeches were then applied, after which profuse hæmorrhage took place ; he was then cupped to the amount of six ounces, and had three grains of diacetate of lead every third hour ; cold was applied to the chest ; in eight hours, there being no amendment, the patient bringing up blood by mouthsful, 3j of ergot was prescribed, which he was to take every hour ; the first dose checked the hæmorrhage, and by the

\* Medical Times for February, 1844.

time that he had taken the third, it had ceased, and, about a fortnight after, had not returned."

A few instances will now be given in which the oxide of silver was employed.

#### CASE I.

J. T., aged 22, a tradesman, living in the Kent Road, applied March 9th, 1842. He spat blood of a bright red colour, for the first time, eighteen months ago, and had continued to do so at intervals, in large quantities, ever since. He had a troublesome cough, and was getting thinner; no rigors; the pulse eighty-five, and weak; he had bronchial respiration, justly considered so diagnostic of tubercles by M. Laennec,\* with mucous râle, dulness under the right clavicle, but no pain on percussion: neither father, mother, sister, nor brothers consumptive; still the prognosis could not be otherwise than unfavourable. This young man consulted no one during many months, then

\* *La Respiration Bronchique est des premiers signes qui indiquent l'existence de tubercles accumulés dans le sommet du poumon.—Traité de l'Auscultation Médiate, tome premier, p. 57.*

saw a surgeon, who ordered medicines which checked the haemorrhage. It recurred soon after, however, and has now continued twelve weeks. He came for advice on a Wednesday; on the Friday preceding he suddenly coughed up half a pint while walking; Saturday night the same, and also on Sunday and Monday, not on Tuesday; but on his return from town on the first day of consultation, about the same quantity was again thrown up. Ordered him to be kept perfectly quiet, to abstain from all stimulants, and to take gr. j. Oxidi Argenti, with gr. x. P. Tragac. C., thrice daily. The discharge of blood from this time gradually diminished, and by the 19th of April he had gained flesh and looked much better; his cough was greatly relieved, his appetite was good, and he could sleep seven hours consecutively. Prescribed the following: Rx Disulph. Quin., gr. vi.; Acidi Sulph. D., ʒss.; Inf. Gent. C., ʒvij.; Fiat mistura, sumat coch. duo ampl. ter quotidie. From this day he ceased to attend; it was ascertained that he went into the country, and he could not be traced afterwards.

## CASE II.

S. R., single, a sempstress, aged 24, applied April, 1843. In the preceding year had vomited up half a large vessel full of blood ; she was bled, and the haemorrhage ceased. It returned again this month while she was shutting a window, and continued at intervals during a whole week. She had taken no medicine but a Seidlitz powder occasionally, of her own accord. On this, the first day of application, there were no indications of the existence of tubercles ; the pulse was eighty-eight, and compressible ; she had no cough, and her periodic health was good. Ordered half-grain doses of the oxide, which, most unusually, causing sickness, was reduced to a quarter of a grain, and then the bleeding ceased, and on the 6th of October following had not returned.

## CASE III.

T. C., a brewer's servant, married, aged 35. After five weeks of fever, accompanied by cephalic symptoms for which he was cupped and leeched,

and had evaporating lotions applied (when heat and pain required) coughed up, April 14th, 1843, half a pint of blood ; the next day more ; the next nearly a quart, black in colour ; the pulse being eighty, and full. Ordered sixteen ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, pleno rivo, and a quarter of a grain of the oxide to be administered every five hours. There was no dulness on percutting the chest ; on the contrary, emphysema had developed itself accompanied by mucous râle. A blister was applied to the scrobiculus cordis, and five grains of Pilul. Saponis è Opio directed to be taken every night ; blood soon ceased to come away, and he would take no more medicine. He applied again, September 10th, stating that now, after the lapse of four months, he had begun to expectorate florid red sputa ; the appetite was impaired, the pulse feeble, and he was altogether dispirited. His father and mother were living, and in good health, but he had lost four sisters by consumption, all after marriage. He began once again, at his own urgent request, with half-grain doses, to which was added gr. x. P. Ipecac. C., at

bed-time. The relief which he sought was again obtained, but the stealthy steps of insidious phthisis were soon recognised, and he was hurried out of life before the end of the year.

#### CASE IV.

W. N., aged 29, a gentleman's coachman. June 23rd, 1843. A man of temperate habits; parents living; none of his relations phthisical; a close examination indicated no unsoundness of the lungs. He has had a cough several weeks; pulse 60, neither full nor otherwise; much out at night from the nature of his employment. Last evening coughed up a great quantity of blood, dark at first, then florid. Began with the small dose of the oxide; the expectoration became less sanguineous day by day, and on July 2nd had, together with the cough, entirely ceased. After persevering with the medicine a fortnight longer he was well, and continued so until he went into the country in August.

## CASE V.

W. T., aged 41, married. Applied for charitable aid, September, 1843. Had emphysema; chest preternaturally sonorous; no râle; pulse 60, and feeble; parents both asthmatic; had himself habitual cough, and had been expectorating blood during the last six days. Began with a quarter of a grain of the oxide, doubling the dose at the end of a week. The red sputa had disappeared by the beginning of October, *and did not recur till February 6th, 1844*, on which day he vomited a pint and a half of florid blood, the next day a quart, and then was twice bled by a surgeon. After which he came and begged to have some more of the oxide, which again restrained the haemorrhage, but symptoms of confirmed phthisis set in, with the usual result.

## CASE VI.

A. B., aged 35, the mother of six children, an apparently healthy woman, but leucophlegmatic, August 13th, 1844. Had been prematurely confined with twins ten months ago. Catamenia

returned, and periodically appeared till March ; after which there was a cessation during six weeks ; then an appearance five times in a month ; after which all uterine flow ceased, and she began to cough and expectorate blood, which lasted ten weeks, and then complained of pain in the side ; the pulse was sixty, and feeble. Desired her to begin with the small dose of the oxide. In a fortnight, the hæmoptysis and pain had progressively decreased, when she went into the country declaring herself to be well, and remained so five weeks ; on her return to town, after a fright, brought up blood twice only. November 14th, in good health, and pregnant; went her full time of gestation, and had no more haemorrhage.

#### CASE VII.

M. A., aged 23, married. Was sent for in haste to this young woman, August 15th, 1844, but being unable to attend, transferred her to the care of a friend, Mr. Wall, surgeon, of Mount Street, who found that she had vomited more than a quart of blood. He bled her, employed the usual astrin-

gent means, and left her in a fortnight, with the exception of weakness, tolerably well. She was at this time suckling a child two months old. October 14th, while asleep, was awakened by a second attack; about a quart was thrown up on this occasion; there was no acceleration of pulse, nor cough, the haemorrhage evidently proceeding from the stomach. Half-grain doses of the oxide were taken during a month, three times a-day. Not the slightest discharge had recurred up to the month of January, 1845; and although the patient was very weak, she continued, with the usual resolution of mothers, to suckle the child, and in addition sat up, night after night, watching her husband, who had, at this period, a long and severe illness.

Two interesting cases, of a recent date, furnished by H. T. Chapman, Esq., of Seymour Street, will close the formal evidence on the above subject; they are as follows: "Miss C., aged 25, tall and slight in person, and delicate in health, had been several times under my care, during the last two years, with menorrhagia, which had always yielded very slowly to the ordinary remedies; she

had a severe attack in April, and another in September, 1849. On the 25th of October I was called in hastily, and found my patient coughing up blood freely, and complaining of much weight and pain over the upper part of the left lung. I at once opened a vein in the arm; but when little more than two ounces had escaped, she fainted, and the blood ceased to flow. I therefore prescribed half a grain Ant. Tart. every hour, and directed perfect repose. Late in the evening, as the hæmorrhage continued, and the sense of weight was not relieved, although the pulse was feeble, I re-opened the vein, but could not obtain more than an ounce of blood. I then applied a small blister over the seat of pain, and gave a quarter of a grain of oxide of silver, directing its repetition every six hours. - Oct. 26. The sputa were still tinged with florid streaks, but no clear blood was now coughed up, and before night all traces of hæmorrhage had disappeared. The oxide was continued until she had taken four grains. As the respiratory murmur was inaudible over a small portion of the upper part of the left lung I repeated the blister; she afterwards took

cod liver oil for three months, and although attacked with cough more than once during the winter and spring, she has had no return of hæmoptysis, and is at this time, May 1850, considerably stouter in person, and in better health, than she has been during several years.

“ Case 2nd :—Mrs. L., aged 42, a somewhat bulky woman of relaxed habit of body, a frequent sufferer from menorrhagia and leucorrhœa, was seized with rather copious hæmorrhage from the lungs, while labouring under a severe cough, January 31st, 1850. I saw her very soon after it commenced, and bled her to the extent of ten or twelve ounces, when she grew faint, and no more blood would flow. A blister was applied to the chest, and I ordered a quarter of a grain of the oxide every six hours. February 1. The hæmorrhage continued during the night, but very slight traces of blood appeared in the sputa this morning, and in the course of the day they became entirely free from it, and remained so, notwithstanding that the cough persisted with some violence, for more than a week afterwards. This patient took six grains of the

oxide. Other remedies were given at the same time in these cases of hæmoptysis; but I believe the cessation of the haemorrhage to have been mainly owing to that medicine." Dated May 29th, 1850.

After so lengthened a period of time, the writer is able to recollect, though he did not keep notes of them, many instances of hæmoptysis, or hæmatemesis, whether vicarious or otherwise, in which the oxide of silver has often permanently arrested the flow, and never in one instance disappointed him in so great a degree as all the other astringents have occasionally done in a practice extending over a period of more than forty years. The above original cases are especially retained, therefore, in this edition, to show the unchanged opinion of the author, who, although he is not so insane as to profess to cure tubercular phthisis, yet is sure that he shall be considered to have been useful in his generation, by his pertinacity in endeavouring to thrust into the broad light of day an additional means of arresting pulmonary haemorrhage, though only for a time, and thereby relieving the pitiable distress of patients and their

friends, caused by this dreaded symptom. For although the good that we do be not permanent, we may yet, on the score of humanity, perchance propitiate that eminent Parisian physician, M. Velpeau, who in an “*Essai sur les Tubercules*,” published not many years ago in the French metropolis, says, “*angli ipsi superbi, illi æmulatoris, qui se nobis præstare semper contendunt, quique nunquam vel pares esse potuerunt, ne quidem duas ideas inter se cohaerentes, hâc de questione ediderunt.*”

We now proceed to the consideration of uterine haemorrhage, occurring in the unimpregnated or the gravid state, during the progress of labour or menstruation, or as a consequence of parturition, immediate or remote, remembering that under any of these conditions it may happen as a result of deranged states of the natural functions of the uterus, or of structural disease of that organ. In treating this subject, the writer presumes that it would be foreign to his purpose to enter into those parts of it which do not in the present state of our knowledge admit of further

practical illustration. Accordingly, it is not his intention to dwell on *puerperal haemorrhage*, often frightful in its invasion, yet, in most instances, perfectly manageable in skilful hands; his object is to attract general attention to those passive forms of uterine haemorrhage so frequently met with in practice, and which, if not repressed, tend to excite various diseases to which the patient may be predisposed, and which might otherwise have remained latent for a length of time, or never have been developed at all. Even with reference to these he has no desire to enter on pathological ground, which has been so often trodden before, and on which he has no new pathway to indicate, but wishes rather to enforce the efficacy of a particular remedy in a class of cases which have been hitherto among the *opprobria medicorum*. It may here also not be improper to state, that the remedial means about to be advocated, though, like all others, powerless to restore the natural structure of parts, the organization of which has been changed by morbid processes, do nevertheless exercise a marked control over the haemor-

rhage occasioned even by malignant diseases of the uterus ; hence they tend to alleviate a frequent and distressing symptom, and to obviate one of the sources of exhaustion, by which such diseases wear out the frame. Let the following authorities have the weight to which they are entitled, as to the absolute necessity of arresting a discharge exhausting in itself, and likely to prove the source of grave evils for the future.

Dr. Copland says,\* “ It will appear that menorrhagia should not be confounded with uterine haemorrhage, but it must not be overlooked *that one often passes into the other*; it is necessary to ascertain its cause, and when excessive it must be restrained.” Dr. Fergusson tells us † “ that sedulous attention must be paid during the natural monthly periods, so as to diminish in every mode the uterine flux, which, however natural, only increases the local malady. With regard to the general health,” he continues, “ this soon becomes deeply injured by chronic menorrhagia. There are all

\* Dictionary of Practical Medicine.

† Tweedie’s Library of Medicine, vol. iv. p. 317.

the effects of loss of blood, added to all those which result from want of exercise and the habits of confirmed invalids. These cases are most difficult to treat, requiring patient attention for a length of time, and incessant watchfulness: the majority, however, recover. When death takes place, it is induced either by direct haemorrhage, of which we have seen but few examples, or by *diseases awakened in a frame rendered apt for their reception*, or by uterine disorganization." Dr. Locock thus defines menorrhagia:—"All those instances of discharge of real blood from the uterus, which occur in connexion with the monthly functions. The cases indeed are very rare in which any strikingly profuse menstruation exists, without more or less of real blood escaping at the same time." There is almost always leucorrhœa, he observes, in the interval, and adds, "*that those who have suffered much from menorrhagia, are peculiarly liable to uterine haemorrhage after abortion or parturition at the full time.*"\* Dr. Fleetwood Churchill divides menorrhagia into three

\* Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, art. Menorrhagia.

kinds,—the first, natural but excessive menstruation ; the second, hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, *without uterine change* ; the third, with alteration in size and position of the uterus. In treating of the second species, he gives the following quotation from Siebald :\*

“The consequences of this complaint are a great liability to abortion on the patient becoming pregnant, and also (from the relaxation produced) a disposition to prolapse of the uterus and vagina.”

Dr. Churchill continues:—“The second kind rarely occurs in young or unmarried females, or in persons under the age of thirty, the subjects of its invasion usually being women of leucophlegmatic temperament, whose constitutions have been impaired by disease and frequent child-bearing.”

The cases which will be presently appended, fully confirm this statement in all its details. The great experience of Dr. Lever, of Guy’s Hospital, must not be lost sight of in this place; he has found that married women are more liable to

\* Outlines of the Principal Diseases of Females, p. 96.

disease of the uterus than those who are single, and also, that in 2580 cases, one-third only were organically, and two-thirds functionally, affected.

It will be well now to review the hygienic and curative means hitherto employed, in order that a satisfactory comparative estimate may be formed of the remedy whose qualities are further about to be advocated; and first, tranquillity of mind, when obtainable, with bodily rest in the recumbent posture, local abstraction of blood, where there is tenderness or pain on pressure, cold drinks of an unstimulating kind, with animal and vegetable diet of a character acceptable to the stomach, and the daily administration of a mild purgative where the bowels are costive, comprise nearly all the general directions, as to the management of menorrhagic cases; it need scarcely be added, that to live *absque marito* must be insisted on. The diacetate of lead, from Dr. Denman's\* day downwards, has always been a favourite medicament; he says, "Oil of turpentine, and the cerussa acetata, in proper doses, have been recom-

\* Denman's Midwifery, vol. ii. p. 291.

mended, and certainly are very powerful medicines in haemorrhages, but they seem better suited to those which are habitual and of long continuance.” Dr. Watson\* in his admirable Lectures, lately given to the world, remarks, “There is a long catalogue of medicinal substances which are esteemed to possess more or less of a specific virtue, when taken internally, in checking the flow of blood; most of these are of an astringent nature, and some of them are eminently useful. The acetate of lead enjoys in this country a higher character, perhaps, than any other of these substances.” Dr. Dewees tells us, “When menstruation is excessive, give superacetate of lead, two or three grains, with opium, every hour or two.”

Of the employment of saturnine or other injections, during the excessive periodic or irregular sanguineous discharges, though directed by high authority in England, France, and America, the author has no experience. The secale cornutum, that invaluable recent addition to our Pharmacology, occupies a prominent place in the cata-

\* Medical Gazette, January 1st, 1841.

logue of astringents. Both Drs. Ashwell and Churchill\* advise five grains of the ergot to be given thrice daily, the latter gentleman observing, “that the only remedy which seems to have the power of controlling the discharge, *during the monthly period*, is the ergot of rye, from which he never saw any ill effects, though he has known it fail altogether.” As a rejoinder to this experience, however, that of Dr. Lever† must be noticed, who reports five instances of inflammation of the uterus, brought on by the employment of the ergot! The gallic acid has its advocates; in a paper read before the Medical Society of Edinburgh, Professor Simpson stated,‡ “that for the last year he had prescribed this medicine with the most successful result, *but which, like all other remedies directed towards the relief of menorrhagia, had occasionally failed.*” In a case § where the catamenial flow had become so profuse

\* Churchill's Outlines, p. 106.

† Medical Gazette, January 26, 1844.

‡ London and Edinburgh Journal of Medical Science, July, 1843.

§ Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, July, 1843.

that Dr. Stevenson was called in, the patient had recently lost a pound of blood, and was exhausted; a glass of port wine was given every four hours, and an eight-grain dose of gallic acid, with a little cinnamon, every third hour: the next day she lost only three ounces in sixteen hours; and when seven powders had been given, the haemorrhage ceased, and the woman entirely recovered. Tannin has been tried, and is well spoken of by M. Dumas of Montpellier, who informs us, that he has employed it successfully in uterine haemorrhage, *during pregnancy.\** Two grains were administered, "with a small proportion of opium," every hour for a few hours, then every three hours; an injection of the same was also thrown up the rectum, in the proportion of 3j. to a pint of water: the flow was arrested, and the woman went her full time.

The late Dr. Cholmondeley, of Guy's Hospital, gave, with great success, drastic purges in acute menorrhagia, strengthening his patients in the intervals. A good practical hint may be here

\* See cases vii. and viii., p. 45.

introduced from the experience of Dr. Locock, who advises\* in women who are prone to menorrhagia, the use of a full purgative about twenty-four hours before the expected period, when that can be ascertained. This brings to the author's mind the case of an inmate of the Salle St. Charles, in La Pitié, who told him that she always passed her monthly times very well, but had had during twenty years, *invariably*, a smart spontaneous purging two or three days previously. Several good cases† are given by Mr. Hunt of Dartmouth, in which great benefit was obtained in menorrhagia by the exhibition of the liquor potassæ arsenitis, beginning with four drops three times a day.

In another volume‡ of the same periodical, we read that savin is one of the most powerful remedies, not only against sanguineous discharges, unconnected with pregnancy, but also against the hæmorrhage which often precedes, and makes us

\* Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, art. Menorrhagia.

† Dr. Johnson's Journal for 1838.

‡ For July, 1844, p. 195.

fear the occurrence of abortion, especially in women of a lax fibre, and who have previously miscarried. Dr. Aran has administered from fifteen to twenty grains Pulv. sabinæ, with very decided success, in numerous cases of uterine hæmorrhage and threatened miscarriage; this remedy has also been pretty extensively tried in the Hôtel Dieu at Paris, with the like benefit. Dr. James Johnson observes, "Both savin and ergot seem to exert a direct stimulant effect on the muscular tissue of the uterus; hence both have been employed, either as emmenagogues, or to arrest atonic hæmorrhage of the organ. We need scarcely add," continues the Doctor, "that no judicious practitioner will administer either remedy in plethoric states of the system, or whenever there is any tendency to inflammatory excitement."

As there may be a polypus within the uterine cavity, when nothing short of an operation will effect a cure, it is impossible not to agree with Professor Simpson of Edinburgh, who tells us \* that in every case of obstinate leucorrhœa, or menorrhagia, it is the imperative duty of the prac-

\* Dr. Tweedie's Library of Medicine, vol. iv. p. 337.

titioner to examine,\* "in order that he may ascertain the pathological state of the uterus, which he has in reality to treat." Polypus may exist at the fundus, and the menorrhagia thereby caused temporarily arrested, (see case 13,) till the tumour be sufficiently within reach. The following appears to be an example of Dr. Fleetwood Churchill's second kind of preternatural flow, copied from one of the periodicals† of the day.

"Mrs. A., aged 51, in the beginning of 1841, complained of severe menstrual discharge, occurring every three weeks, accompanied by palpitation; the heart, at this time, was not considered to be hypertrophied. The palpitations were always brought on by the menstrual flow, up to the beginning of 1844, a period of three years; at this time, the

\* Young practitioners, in particular, are advised to lay it down as a rule, never to inspect a patient, *without the presence of a witness*, many having had cause to regret it, who have neglected to observe this precaution. No longer since than the Gloucester Spring Assizes for 1851, a most respectable surgeon of Cheltenham, through not observing this rule, was sought to be sacrificed by a low jade and her abettors, who knew not the purity and honour which belong to the medical profession.

† Lancet, July 13th, 1844.

flow took place oftener, and continued longer. The palpitations were now constant, the beat gradually acquiring strength and breadth, being incessant, with strong bellows sound, covering a large area ; at length, there was effusion into the cavity of the chest and abdomen, with a sense of suffocation on lying down or leaning backwards. This patient died exhausted on the 25th of June, 1844. The thorax and abdomen contained a moderate-sized washhand-basinfull of fluid ; the heart was very much enlarged ; the valves were sound ; *the uterus was perfectly healthy* ; she had never complained of pain in that organ.”

As facts are reasonably called for, so shall they be abundantly supplied, not only from the experience of the writer himself, but from that of numerous physicians and surgeons in London and in the provinces, who have been requested to administer the preparation in question on all suitable occasions (such being carefully explained), and to report upon the results. These results will be illustrated in the present essay by an ample variety of cases.

The first series consists of those which are recorded, in the first edition of the work, published in 1845 ; the second, of the most striking examples which have occurred to the writer since that period. It will be seen that one-quarter of a grain was the minimum, and one grain of the oxide three times a day the maximum dose, safely reduced in strength by the author, who did not keep a journal during the latter end of the year 1841, nor in the very early part of 1842, but the evidence became at last so incontestable, that the institution of a record for future guidance could no longer be conscientiously postponed.

The detail of individual cases has become of late years rather unfashionable, but very undeservedly so ; no doubt, when they are got up for the purposes of display, and accompanied with frivolous and irrelevant particulars, they are alike tedious, unprofitable, and obtrusive ; but when judiciously selected, well authenticated, and succinctly stated, they must ever be regarded by practical men as forming the most direct and satisfactory medium for the communication of medical facts.

The oxide of silver is astringent and tonic. It acts powerfully on all the mucous tissues, and its effects *are all but specific on that of the uterus.* Nor is its use attended with any pernicious or unpleasant consequences. An hospital physician in the country has prescribed it, as will presently be seen, in two-grain doses, thrice daily, without any disagreeable results. The writer has never given it in larger quantity than three grains daily, in divided doses, seldom amounting to more than half a grain, and never exceeding a grain. Among many hundred cases thus treated, he has not, in a single instance, met with any other than good results ; and he is fully persuaded that no other will ever be found to follow, where the medicine is genuine, is judiciously employed, and not continued longer than two months consecutively, without an intermission of two or perhaps three weeks. That it is a catholicon is by no means affirmed : such claim cannot be rationally asserted in behalf of any remedy, when it is considered that we differ from one another when in health as much in constitution as in countenance—that in

sickness no less diversity obtains—and that the same individual presents various phases, both of health and disease, at different periods of life. Hence one of the chief difficulties of our art; and hence the necessity not only of a careful attention to constitutional peculiarities and idiosyncracies, but of the utmost industry and perseverance in the accumulation of remedies adapted to every variety of constitution, and to all the changeful aspects of disease. John Abernethy, of glorious memory, (who taught his pupils to think for themselves, and not to submit without inquiry to any man's dictum,) was accustomed to say to them quaintly and characteristically, “Gentlemen, there is no such thing as a remedy for a disease, excepting sulphur, for a complaint which is never alluded to in good society, and, perhaps, mercury in another disorder of equally bad repute!” The oxide of silver acts most promptly on the leucophlegmatic temperament. Its employment is contra-indicated where fever or appreciable inflammation exists, and its administration must be suspended till such conditions have been removed;

should the bowels be constipated, a daily dose of some mild purgative must be insisted upon. A continuance in the horizontal posture (all but impossible with the poor) is desirable, but not indispensable. The other astringents hitherto employed in passive uterine haemorrhage have so repeatedly disappointed the expectations of the writer, that he has for ever abandoned their use, and replaced them by the oxide. This medicine usually effects a cure in a few days, or weeks at most, steadily, safely, and permanently, and in order to render his observation of its effects the less liable to fallacy, the writer never combines any other medicine with it as an adjuvant.

#### CASE I.

A. H., aged 24, applied March 4th, 1842. Had been confined nine weeks before, and suffered from menorrhagia ever since, with abundant coagula. There being no symptoms to forbid its use, she was ordered to take a quarter of a grain of oxide of silver three times a day. At the end of a week all discharge had ceased, but the pulse, which had been

slow previously, having become accelerated, saline medicine was prescribed, all stimulants forbidden, and rest enjoined till the end of the month, after which tonic bitters were exhibited, and on the 4th of June she was dismissed perfectly well.

#### CASE II.

J. M., aged 40. April 3rd, 1842. Married seventeen years; no family; the catamenia, which were always regular, and never profuse, had first appeared at the age of twelve. Had now been afflicted for three months, in an extreme degree, and the discharge had been excessive the day before she applied for relief; her pulse was feeble; there was no bearing down, nor pain. That the flow under these circumstances might be checked gradually, the minimum dose of the medicine was prescribed: after two days there was an amendment; in a week the hæmorrhage, for such it was, had nearly ceased, and in another, entirely disappeared. The patient having remained free of all complaint till the end of May, was dismissed cured.

## CASE III.

J. K., April 13th, 1842. Age not taken down. Had had several children; miscarried of twins in 1838, also in 1841; had been unwell every day since the beginning of February. Was desired to take half-grain doses; in a week all flow of a sanguineous kind having ceased, leucorrhœa supervened: for this an injection was ordered, composed of Arg. nit. gr. x., Aquæ distill. ʒvij., to be used three or four times a day. April 23rd. Considerable hæmorrhagic discharge, which lasted one day only, and then ceased spontaneously. 26th. There was some pain in the uterine region, *which she said the powders removed.* May 25th. Perfectly well, with the exception of costiveness; to take Conf. sennæ daily. June 16th. No recurrence of disorder. Dismissed.

## CASE IV.

A. B., aged 49, upholsteress. April 18th, 1842. Was always regular till eight months before, but is now never free from hæmorrhage more than three

or four days together ; strength greatly reduced ; pulse feeble ; bowels open ; never lost so much blood as on this occasion. Prescribed half-grain doses, which progressively lessened the appearance of blood, and, on the 2nd of May, leucorrhœa alone remained ; for this the nitrate of silver injection was ordered, as in the last instance, and gr. ij. Disulphat. quininæ, to be taken thrice daily. In the beginning of June this patient reported herself well, and, on a subsequent inquiry, made a few weeks afterwards, she was ascertained to be in good health.

#### CASE V.

C. P., aged 40. April 22nd, 1842 (a dispensary patient). Had menorrhagia in January, which was arrested by Dr. Weber (who was then a colleague); it had now returned with great severity, and had lasted a week. Ordered grain doses ; the flow gradually ceased in a few days ; returned on the 16th of May, when it was restrained as before. It again appeared on the 24th, but was completely

under control of the remedy. May 30th. Slight appearance. July 17th. Well, and though desired to apply again, if needful, came no more.

#### CASE VI.

E. P., aged 25. April 28th, 1842. Had been suffering from menorrhagia (with coagula) for five weeks. To take grain doses. May 1st. Hæmorrhage diminished. 3rd. Still better. 5th. Had nausea and head-ache. Directed to leave off the medicine during two days. 7th. Well of the original complaint, but now had leucorrhœa. To use the nitrate of silver injection, and have an opiate plaster applied to the loins. 18th. All discharge had subsided. June 1st. Menorrhagia returned, and lasted several days; resumed the oxide as before, with the same result; leucorrhœa also reappeared, but soon ceased: the patient being costive, had a mild aperient daily. July 1st. Catamenia appeared in a regular manner, lasting only four days, when she declared herself to be in good health.

## CASE VII.

Name and age not taken down. May, 1842. This patient was pregnant ; had uterine haemorrhage a month ago, which was stopped by one of the medical officers of the dispensary ; was directed now to take grain doses, at intervals of five hours ; the bleeding was immediately restrained, and a month afterwards had not reappeared.

## CASE VIII.

Another patient, also pregnant, had had slight haemorrhage during three months, when it was entirely suppressed by one of the physicians. It had now existed three weeks, and was, she said, "very bad indeed." Ordered her the small dose, and, in three or four days, all discharge had ceased. In about twenty days it recurred ; was again stopped by the oxide ; then, after about the same interval, a third, and again a fourth time, the pregnancy still going on, and the child alive ; she ceased to attend.

## CASE IX.

H. G., widow, aged 30. June 17th, 1842. Her last child born nine years since; applied now for hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, of three weeks' duration; menses usually appeared every twenty-one days. Prescribed quarter-grain doses, which had their full effect in a week, and the next period passed over naturally.

## CASE X.

J. H., aged 24. July, 1842. Single; a sempstress. Delicate frame; pulse quick and small; bowels regular; menses excessive, recurring once a fortnight, and continuing for a week. To take a quarter of a grain of the oxide at the end of the fifth day of each period of menstruation. Felt almost immediate relief, and was dismissed, cured, on the 17th of September. *Came again December 14th, 1844; had had the catamenia quite naturally during the last two years, and is now suffering only from rheumatism, which is a family complaint.*

## CASE XI.

The writer was called in the autumn of 1842 to a consultation with Dr. Hamilton Roe and Mr. Douglas, by a single lady of Brompton, aged above 30. She had had an obstinate cough and other ailments, as well as prolonged menstruation to an excessive degree, which had reduced her to a state of great weakness. Thinking that one of her troubles, at least, might be relieved, he suggested the administration of minimum doses of the oxide : this, though an unheard of medicine by the other gentlemen in attendance, was agreed to be given ; and, from this, the patient (not seen again by the writer) was reported to have derived great benefit.

## CASE XII.

E. B., aged 28. January 11th, 1843. Single. Had been much reduced by hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, which had continued during nine days: no symptoms forbidding, gave the full dose, every

five hours. In two or three days the flow had ceased, and the next period passed quite regularly.

### CASE XIII.

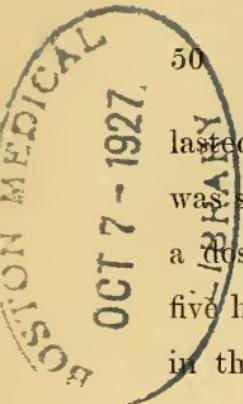
Mrs. P., aged 40. September, 1842. Had borne one child; applied first a year previously, being then afflicted, as at this time, with profuse uterine discharge of a sanguineous character; the former attack was checked by two or three grain doses of diacetate of lead, combined with opium. The oxide was directed on the present occasion to be taken thrice daily, which, having complete effect, no more was heard of the patient during another year, when the existence of polypus being suspected, an examination was made,\* but though there was preternatural enlargement in the uterine region, no tumour could then be

\* The abuse of the speculum cannot be too strongly condemned: it must be a source of regret to all those who wish to practise their profession with honour and honesty, to find this valuable addition to our means of diagnosis made the means of a low and degrading quackery.

detected. The hæmorrhage occasionally recurring, recourse was had, from time to time, to the powders, which always restrained it. In the spring of 1844, a second examination discovered the existence of a polypus at the fundus of the uterus, but which was not within reach of surgical aid. In a few weeks, however, the tumour was forced down, so as to press on the meatus urinarius, rendering the introduction of the catheter necessary two or three times a day: it was then, in consultation with the family surgeon, (Mr. Robarts of Great Coram Street, F.R.C.S.,) decided to pass a ligature round the root of the polypus, which was satisfactorily done, with Dr. Gooch's canulæ. A large fibrous body was removed, our patient rapidly recovered, and is now in excellent health.

#### CASE XIV.

S. H., aged 38. May, 1843. Had borne eleven children, but none for the last two years; had now profuse uterine hæmorrhage, which had



lasted seven weeks; she also spat blood ; her pulse was slow, and the bowels were costive. Ordered a dose of Ol. ricini daily, and the oxide every five hours. This patient was free from complaint in the course of a week, and though desired to come again, if needful, did not return.

#### CASE XV.

M. R., aged 41, 1843, married, but without family. Had menstruated profusely for a fortnight. Ordered her half-grain doses ; but, as there was pain on pressure over the uterine region, directed that twelve or fourteen leeches should first be applied : this being done, the soreness ceased, and on the 30th, the flow had, nearly, and a day or two afterwards entirely, disappeared. July 11th. Catamenia returned, but in small quantity, accompanied with pain. The following pills were prescribed : R. Camph. 3j., Ext. hyoscyami, 3ij., P. glycyrrhiz. q. s. : ut fiant pilulæ xij., quarum sumat ij. 5tis horis, urgente dolore. 12th. Pain nearly gone ; discharge considerable.

16th. Ordered to resume the powders. 18th. Diarrhoea having supervened, the Mist. cretæ cum opio was substituted for the other medicine. 20th. Well in all respects, with the exception of weakness. August 8th. The menses reappeared with pain. Desired to repeat the camphor pills, which, as before, relieved her. 13th. To recommence the oxide, and, the bowels being costive, to take in addition a dessert spoonful of confection of senna daily. 15th. Declared herself to be better than she had been since January, and did not attend again.

#### CASE XVI.

L. B., aged 31. July 1843. Had borne a child eleven months ago ; her milk left at four months ; had now been weakened by menorrhagia for five weeks. Directed to take the smaller dose of the oxide at the usual intervals ; this stopped the discharge gradually ; she afterwards took the following pills : R. Ferri sulph. 3j., Pilul. galb. c. 3jss. Ft. pilul. xxx. Sumat ij. ter die. September 25th, declared that she was quite well.

## CASE XVII.

M. D., aged 40. August 23rd, 1843. Had been a sufferer from hæmorrhagic menorrhagia at intervals for several years; the flow had now lasted nearly a month, accompanied by coagula: the last time was unwell a fortnight. Her pulse was feeble, bowels regular, appetite tolerably good. Prescribed quarter-grain doses of the oxide: the discharge gradually lessened, and in five days had stopped. August 28th. Added five grains of calumba to each dose of the oxide. September 8th. Continued free from discharge, and was much improved in appearance. October 5th. The cata-menial period had passed quite satisfactorily. Called August 28th, 1844, expressly to return thanks, having been regular *during the preceding ten months*, and presenting all the appearance of restored health.\*

\* The test of the success of our treatment consists in the return of the catamenia, without hæmorrhage or pain, the relief obtained during an interval being often merely temporary.—CHURCHILL, p. 104.

## CASE XVIII.

M. F., aged 49. August 19th, 1843. Had borne nine children during the last eight years; pulse weak, and slow; had been unwell five weeks; stated that she had never been free an entire fortnight during the last year: coagula continually coming away. Ordered to take the minimum dose of the oxide: a diminution of the discharge was soon noted, and in a week it had entirely ceased. September 19th. Had been well twenty-one days, and "had not felt so comfortable for two years." To leave off the astringent, and take the following mixture: ℥ Acid. sulph. d. ʒj., Inf. chirayitæ, ʒvijss., Tinc. card. comp. ʒss. Ft. mist. Sumat cyathum parvum ter quotidie. A fortnight after this she was dismissed well.

## CASE XIX.

M. F., aged 43. October 20th, 1843. Has had a hæmorrhagic flow for fifteen months; never free three days consecutively: polypus suspected, but

neither this nor any other morbid state of the uterus was discoverable by examination: there was pain, but no sensation of bearing down. The pulse being full,  $\frac{3}{5}$ xvj. of blood were ordered to be abstracted from the arm, after which quarter-grain doses of the oxide were prescribed. November 10th. The discharge had very gradually ceased; three weeks of cessation having elapsed, the catamenia appeared, and, as the loss was not great, were allowed to continue twelve days; there was then about the same interval as before, and a subsequent corresponding, but lengthened appearance; a dull obtuse pain being felt in the hypogastric region, she was ordered to inject a strong tepid decoction of poppy heads three or four times a day, which gave great relief. This poor woman went to a hospital, and after the lapse of a year, for she was not lost sight of, was found to have the cauliflower excrecence of the uterus, described by Sir Charles M. Clarke, in his second volume of the "Diseases of Females, attended by Discharges."

## CASE XX.

C. D., aged 22 ; single. December 5th, 1843. Had been afflicted during three years with an appearance of blood from the vagina whenever she walked, and then only ; nausea was almost always present, but she never vomited ; her bowels were regular, and her appetite tolerably good. Began with the minimum dose of the oxide ; in a week, reported herself free from complaint, and "leading a life of comfort." Dec. 19th. Remained well, after which the menses appeared regularly, and *ten months subsequently* this patient was ascertained to be in good health.

## CASE XXI.

J. S., aged 42. April 16th, 1844. The mother of many children, the youngest two years old. Had had haemorrhage many weeks ; naturally costive. To take Ol. ricini daily, and the small dose of the oxide. She had been much debilitated of late years by the frequent occurrence of excessive

menstruation. The medicine had soon its usual good effect, but it was thought necessary to put her upon a course of bitter tonics, with the mineral acids. Health was by these means restored, and in January, 1845, the report that she gave of herself was, *that for several months she had passed the catamenial periods in an altered and satisfactory manner, in no instance having been unwell more than three days, nor during that time immoderately so.*

#### CASE XXII.

S. M., aged 36. April 26th, 1844. Had been confined three months before, discharge, with coagula, coming away daily ever since; no pain nor bearing down; pulse quiet. The patient, herself very weak, was suckling a strong child. Gave quarter-grain doses of the oxide three times a day; no other medicine. An amendment took place before a week had elapsed; in a fortnight she was well; and at the end of the year had experienced no return of the discharge, nor appearance of the menses.

## CASE XXIII.

M. S., aged 28. June 13th, 1844. Married ten years. Miscarried fifteen weeks ago, and had suffered from haemorrhage ever since, with hardly a day's intermission. There being no indication of febrile excitement, the oxide was ordered in the minimum dose, which, in three days, having no effect, was increased to half a grain : six powders checked, and six more stopped the flow. After she had remained well for many days, leucorrhœa presented itself. The use of the nitrate of silver injection thrice daily was directed, the employment of which, and taking tonic medicine, completed her cure in a fortnight.

## CASE XXIV.

A. P., aged 22. August 13th, 1844. Married, but had no family. Without known cause had suffered from menorrhagia to a great extent for five weeks. Though a very large fine woman, her strength was much reduced ; pulse feeble. Prescribed quarter-grain doses of the oxide, and she

began to amend in a few days, after which half a grain was taken, with an occasional dose of Ol. ricini, and these means soon restored her to health. She was dismissed on the 31st, *and in November reported that she had since menstruated twice regularly.*

#### CASE XXV.

H. M., aged 28. August 22nd, 1844. Had borne three children; weaned the last a fortnight since. Had menstruated profusely for nine days. Prescribed the customary dose of the oxide, and in a few days all flow had ceased. This young woman had been suffering from pyrosis eight or nine months, had pain in the stomach after meals, eructated watery fluid, and was habitually costive; the colocynth and hyoscyamus pills were therefore added to the plan, one or two being taken every night. On the 22nd of October this patient was dismissed, without any ailment remaining, but not until the medicine had been gradually increased to two-thirds of a grain. December 21st. Well, and had passed over two catamenial periods satisfactorily.

## CASE XXVI.

Mrs. V., aged 36. August 23rd, 1844. Sent for by a surgeon. Our patient had borne eight children, and thought that she had miscarried (at two, or possibly three months) ten days before, since which she had had profuse discharge, which neither the diacetate of lead, nor anything else had succeeded in checking: there was no fever, and the bowels had been kept open. The oxide having been proposed to her medical attendant, and he not objecting, the small dose was directed to be taken every five hours. The flow was kept in subjection during a fortnight, but not having entirely ceased, the quantity of the medicine was doubled. In ten days more she was free from discharge, but on rising from bed, and making exertion, the haemorrhage recurred; an examination being then made, no alteration of the uterus, in any respect, could be perceived, and grain doses of the oxide were desired to be administered, and continued till the 7th of October. She was by this time, with the exception of weakness, quite

restored to health, declaring "that to the powders she was sure she owed the preservation of her life." Soon afterwards she was sent to a watering-place, and in the end of December wrote to say that she continued well.

#### CASE XXVII.

E. W., aged 46. August 25th, 1844. Had had many children. Menses always regular, till within the last five weeks, during which time she had been profusely unwell. The usual dose of the oxide checked the flux in three days, and in a fortnight she was free from complaint, remaining so three weeks; the menses then returned for a day or two; after this there was an entire cessation for a whole month, and by the use of mineral tonics, with bitters, the patient became strong, and at the next menstrual period the catamenia were present two or three days in the natural manner, and on April 13th, 1848, this poor woman reported herself as having been (ever since her illness in 1844) quite well, and regular for the first year naturally.

## CASE XXVIII.

S. L., aged 23. October 7th, 1844. Miscarried three months ago ; had been grievously weakened by hæmorrhagic menorrhagia ever since, accompanied by pain in the back, but none in the uterus. Ordered to take the small dose of the oxide : in two days she began to perceive a difference, in a week was well, and has remained so in all respects.

## CASE XXIX.

C. L., aged 35. October 18th, 1844. Had borne eight children in ten years, and lost them all, the two last recently from scarlatina. This poor woman had been worn down during eight weeks by profuse sanguineous discharge, abundant coagula coming away. The oxide in doses of a quarter of a grain, with gr. x. P. tragac. c., was directed to be taken every five hours. In four days a great change for the better had taken place; in ten more, all discharge had ceased, and, by persisting with the medicine in double quantity,

twice daily till the end of the month, the patient recovered her strength, and in March, 1845, remained in good health.

#### CASE XXX.

J. L., aged 38. November 14th, 1844. Had been pregnant twelve times, and borne seven living children. During many weeks had suffered from inordinate uterine haemorrhage, which had reduced her to a pitiable state of debility; in addition to this, there was great pain in the hypogastric region, of an acute but intermitting character, sometimes shooting towards her back, and at others, down the thighs. A sister had died of cancer. The result of an examination confirmed the unfavourable opinion previously formed of her case: there existed carcinoma of the os uteri, which appeared to have first shown itself, though in a mitigated degree, a year and a half before. A cure was out of the question, but the hope of great relief was held out and was amply realized. Death must soon have ensued, had not the haemorrhage been checked, which was almost entirely

effected in ten days, by the small dose of the oxide, a dose of Ol. ricini being also taken once in twenty-four hours. She was, for the first time, desired to live *absque marito*. The use of a suppository composed of a grain of extract of belladonna,\* made into a mass with conserve, procured her a state of permanent comfort, (as it has done in many other cases occurring in the practice of the author,) to which she had long been a stranger. This remedy was resorted to daily. The sanguineous discharge returned in December, but not to an extent which justified its suppression. The plan of treatment will henceforth be directed by symptoms as they arise, and although the poor woman's life cannot be saved, her misery will be, in all probability, greatly lessened by continued and unsparing attention to her case.

\* The opportunity here afforded, enables the author of this work, which is meant to be purely practical, gratefully to thank Sir B. C. Brodie, one of the teachers of his earliest years, for much valuable aid in various surgical difficulties, especially in pointing out the benefit to be derived in carcinoma, from the belladonna suppository. The same remedy has also been found of great use in irritable uterus.

## CASE XXXI.

S. S., married, aged 30, applied February 1st, 1845, and gave the following account. She had miscarried three months after her marriage (in 1833), but had been well in every respect ever since, till ten weeks ago, when, having over-walked herself on the third day of the catamenial period, flooding had come on, and continued more or less profusely ever since, accompanied by pain, but without expulsive sensations. The patient, who was of large stature, and had been very healthy previously to the abortion above mentioned, had been under the care of an experienced and attentive practitioner during the whole of her illness, who, however, had failed to arrest the haemorrhage by medicine, keeping the patient in the recumbent posture, &c. &c. Half-grain doses of the oxide were desired to be taken as in the other instances. The bowels being open, and no undue arterial action existing, nothing else was required. The fullest benefit followed; day by day she improved. The first effect was a striking remission

of the pain (which had occurred in other patients on former occasions); the next was a progressive diminution of the exhausting discharge, which had caused extreme debility. In a week she was nearly well; in a few days more perfectly so; and on February 22nd left off the medicine, as being no longer needed. She was restored to health and spirits, and full of gratitude for her unexpected cure.\*

It should be noted that in many of these cases of pure menorrhagia, unaccompanied by organic lesion, the patients did not remain in the horizontal posture during the day at all, their circumstances rendering it impossible for them to do so; and yet these were benefited almost as much as others who had at their command every aid which could possibly be required.

\* In the cases that have been detailed, the addresses of the patients who were the subjects of treatment have been kept, so that almost all can be easily traced.

## ABSTRACT OF FIRST SERIES.

CASE.	DURATION OF COMPLAINT.		
1.	9 weeks,	entirely relieved in	1 week.
2.	13 ,,,	,,	3 ,,,
3.	10 ,,,	,,	1 ,,,
4.	8 ,,,	,,	2 ,,,
5.	1 (very urgent, twice)	,,	6 ,,,
6.	5 ,,,	,,	9 days.
7.	pregnant,	stopped soon, and had not returned a month after.	
8.	also pregnant,	relieved in 3 or 4 days.	
9.	3 weeks,	entirely relieved in	1 week.
12.	9 days	,,	,, 2 or 3 days.
14.	7 weeks	,,	,, 1 week.
16.	5 ,,,	,,	gradually.
17.	4 ,,,	,,	5 days.
18.	5 ,,,	,,	1 week.
20.	long period	,,	1 ,,,
21.	many weeks	,,	soon.
22.	13 weeks	,,	2 weeks.
23.	15 ,,,	,,	2 ,,,
24.	5 ,,,	,,	1 ,,,
25.	9 days	,,	a few days.
26.	10 days	,,	10 days.
27.	5 weeks	,,	2 weeks.
28.	13 ,,,	,,	1 ,,,
29.	8 ,,,	,,	10 days.
31.	10 ,,,	,,	10 days.

*SECOND SERIES.*

## CASE I.

*By W. H. Judd, Esq., Surgeon Major, Scots Fusilier Guards.*

“Mrs. C. W., aged 37. Sent for me June 8th, 1846. All her life this lady had been subject to menorrhagia to a fearful degree, invariably attended by distressing pains in her head, and also in her back, with a sensation of heat along the sagittal suture; her temperament is sanguineous, and she has a quick, lively imagination, is tall, active, thin and spare; the mother of four children; during the last three days she was so weakened, that she could scarcely walk or do anything which required exertion. I was applied to, to lessen, if possible, this flow, which had so often occurred to disable her. I ordered half a grain of oxydi argenti in bread crumb, as a pill, thrice daily. On the 12th the loss had already become less, on the 14th it had quite ceased; the pain in the head was less, there was none in the back, and all inconvenience had gradually subsided; on

the next occasion there was a great amendment, less pain than usual in the head, none in the back, and on the next, hardly any in either part; and, in 1847, the excessive drain upon the constitution has ever since kept within bounds, the headache better, and the patient very thankful to have obtained a state of health such as she had not enjoyed during the last fifteen years.

“(Signed)

W. H. J.

“Maddox Street, March, 1848.”

## CASE II.

Mrs. H., aged 36, of Oxford Street. May 23rd, 1845. Habit plethoric, pulse slow and feeble, bowels habitually open. Had borne many children. Had suffered from profuse menorrhagia for seven weeks, and been obliged to lie down during the day from absolute exhaustion. Began with doses of only a quarter of a grain of the oxide, thrice daily (in order that the flow might not be repressed too suddenly). Was directed to use cold potations, to refrain from stimulants, and not to indulge in a habit of remaining till a late hour

in bed. 27th. There being an amendment, but not of a sufficiently decisive character, the dose was doubled. June 3rd. Entirely free from discharge. Desired to continue the oxide a week longer. 10th. Leucorrhœa appeared, which has not generally been found to follow uterine hæmorrhage when thus cured. This patient was then ordered into the country, and desired to take the following mixture: Rx Acid. sulph. dil. m<sub>l</sub>.; Infusi gentianæ. c. ʒvjss. Tinct. Cardamom. c. ʒss.; Capiat cochl. tria ampla ter in die. She presented herself in good health, July 25th, and had passed over one monthly period quite naturally.

### CASE III.

Mrs. M., aged 36. Grosvenor Street. Sent by Frederic C. Skey, Esq., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, April, 1844. Had had five children, confined with the last about three months before her application, since which, had suffered from menorrhagia, more or less, every day. Complained of no pain, pulse good, felt very weak. Prescribed half a grain of the oxide in pill, three times a day.

The second day she was better, after which she rapidly improved; in ten days the flow had ceased, and in three weeks she had recovered her strength. This patient stated, September 10th, 1850, that she had occasionally had menorrhagia in excess, but trusting to the pills, had *always* obtained relief from them.

#### CASE IV.

Mrs. M., aged 40. Princes Street, Soho. April 2nd, 1848. Habit plethoric; married seventeen years, and had borne several children. First appearance of the catamenia at the age of twelve. Menstruation always profuse, but never accompanied by pain. At the time of her application the flow was excessive, and had lasted three months. After six half-grain doses of the oxide, found a sensible improvement, was well on the 14th, and did not feel the slightest inconvenience from the comparatively speedy suppression.

#### CASE V.

Mrs. L., aged 39. Rupert Street, Haymarket. May 8th, 1849. Had had a family. Had suf-

ferred from menorrhagia during the preceding five months ; there was no polypus, nor any other obvious cause for her condition. The last three weeks the flow had been excessive, but without pain ; on taking the oxide pills during three weeks, in the usual way, a gradual diminution of hæmorrhage took place up to the 29th, when it had entirely ceased ; the next menstrual period passed as if nothing untoward had occurred. An acid tonic mixture was persevered in till the 17th, by which time she was completely recovered.

#### CASE VI.

Mrs. B., aged 42. Brewer Street. December, 1849. Had borne nine children ; of a delicate constitution, afflicted with menorrhagia the whole of the preceding six months ; had loss of appetite, and indigestion, and was altogether out of health ; the pulse slow and weak ; no uterine pain. Six weeks' perseverance with the pills was required for her restoration—an unusually long time ; but, on the 13th January she reported herself as being in perfect health in every respect.

## CASE VII.

Mrs. A., aged 38. Great Tichfield Street. September 11th, 1850. Had been much weakened by frequent child-bearing ; had never been free from haemorrhage a day during the preceding four months. Prescribed half a grain of the oxide as before ; the haemorrhage was restrained almost at once, and the next two periods passed off well, being only a day and a half each time.

## CASE VIII.

This presents the most gratifying result which the writer has the pleasure to record, since it is an instance in which he himself, for the first and only time, was doubtful of being able to relieve the patient effectually ; it will be seen, however, that he was enabled to do this.

Mrs. C., aged 48. —— Place, New Road. August 6th, 1848. Had a family very early in life ; had scarcely been free from haemorrhage from the uterus, without pain, however, for the preceding fifteen months. This lady's appearance was pitiable in

the extreme ; her face was anaemic, and of an ashy paleness, the tunica adnata of that pearly whiteness so peculiar after excessive loss of blood ; the pulse was feeble, and about eighty ; the spirits were depressed, the appetite capricious ; all the functions of the body, in fact, were languidly performed. Though no organic disease could be detected, the prognosis delivered to the family was necessarily very unfavourable, this being the most unpromising case which the writer had ever seen. An able physician of great experience had attended this patient since January 15th, and had gone the round of all the remedies employed in menorrhagia, *save one*, and, handsomely gave up his post to his successor, saying, that “he really could do no more.” The first step was to inspire confidence in the desponding patient ; the observance of the horizontal posture, only needed in extreme cases, which had previously been recommended, was now made a sine quâ non, sitting up in bed not being permitted even for a moment. All the powers of the system were to be husbanded, and the mind cloistered

from all external impressions. The minimum dose of the oxide of silver, namely, a quarter of a grain, in the usual pill, was exhibited for the first few weeks, and afterwards doubled ; a pill also composed of Ext. coloc. C. gr. iv. with Ext. Hyoscyami gr. i. was given every day while she was in bed, and often afterwards ; the tonic selected at the fitting time was the Tinct. Ferri sesquichloridi from  $\text{m}\bar{x}$ . to  $\overline{\text{xv}}$ ., in a wine glass of very weak cinnamon water, taken thrice daily, replacing the oxide pill. Farinaceous nutriment, bread in various forms, with broth, and beef-tea, in small quantities ; no wine the first month. In *two days* after commencing with the oxide, a change had taken place ! coagula had ceased to come away ; and at the end of ten days we were becoming victorious. The health steadily though slowly improved up to October, 1850 ; and she, who, in August, 1848, was believed to be moribund, appeared, though far from strong, to bid as fair for long life as any other person of her age.

The preceding have been instances of mere

uterine haemorrhage, by which is meant *painless* flow of blood, chiefly in a coagulated form; two of a different character will now be added, one from the essayist's own practice, the other from that of a friend, who will tell of his success in his own words.

#### CASE IX.

Mrs. S., aged 46. Silver Street, Golden Square. November 25th, 1847. Had borne several children, had been a martyr to menorrhagia during the preceding three years, particularly so the concluding ten months of this period, accompanied by severe pain, at intervals; her two evils, the loss and the suffering, were by the oxide, in half-grain doses, gradually relieved, the patient's observation being, that since she had taken the pills, she had not experienced any amount of pain as compared with her previous sufferings.

Another variety, also from Henry Obré, Esq., of Lisson Grove, may properly find a place here.

## CASE X.

" My notes respecting Mrs. T.'s case are but short. She was between 40 and 50 years of age, and the mother of children, and came under my care, March 16th, 1846. For two or three years, she had occasionally suffered from uterine hæmorrhage ; but last January, after an interval, it suddenly recurred, and reduced her to a most alarming state of exhaustion : she at first refused to permit an examination, but afterwards consenting, a polypus, the size of a horse-chestnut, was found growing by a pedicle from the edge of the os uteri. This was removed by the knife : no bleeding followed ; she went on well for a fortnight, under the use of cinchona, and acids, when the hæmorrhage again returned. I then, by your advice, prescribed the oxide of silver, and she has now recovered under its employment, to the great satisfaction of her family—her life being a very valuable one.

(Signed) H. O."

## CASE XI.

Is a striking one, and possesses novel and interesting features. Mrs. M., aged 36; Marshall Street, June 13th, 1847. Her last of several children was born two years and a half ago; and she had metritis after the labour. This patient has had a constant hæmorrhagic drain ever since the 4th January, with the exception of three weeks about Easter, occurring every day, more or less. There was very little pain, none on pressure; extreme somnolency; bowels natural; pulse tremulous, and about seventy. Began with half-grain doses of the oxide cum Pulv. Tragac. C. thrice daily: the flow seemed to increase during the first two days, when, having the dose augmented to three-quarters of a grain, a beneficial change took place; the menorrhagia became less and less: there was very little on the 17th, less on the 19th, and in six days all hæmorrhage had ceased. A slight yellow secretion followed during a few days, and then spontaneously subsided. The oxide was continued only three days more: she

had never experienced periodical pain, but uniformly great misery ever since her confinement, on the occurrence of marital intercourse. On the cessation of the menorrhagia, she was sent, July 12th, to Caernarvonshire, her native country. She had the catamenia from that period every three weeks regularly, and never afterwards had any annoyance on the occasions above alluded to. There is no doubt that the oxide tends to facilitate impregnation ; every member of the medical profession knows how much less women are likely to conceive who suffer greatly at the menstrual period. We have seen, in the cases just enumerated, how much permanent relief was obtained by the employment of the oxide, and, in the instance of this Welsh lady, the healthy and painless exercise of a natural function was evidently, through its sanitary agency, satisfactorily established.

One more subject, of a most important character indeed, must now be touched upon ; the writer has met with several cases in which he had great power over the hæmorrhage, not only where

there was undoubted chronic disease, as carcinoma, cauliflower excrescence, &c., *but also where the uterus contained either a polypus or a foetus*: of three of these cases occurring during pregnancy, he took notes, and will here briefly record them.

#### CASE XII.

Mrs. K., aged 28, living in Wardour-street, came January 4th, 1846. A healthy young woman, four months pregnant. Was seized with profuse haemorrhage on New Year's Day. Before she had taken six half-grain doses of the oxide (that is to say, in two days,) the flow had ceased; on the 28th it had not returned, and the pregnancy was uninterrupted.

#### CASE XIII.

Mrs. A., aged 38, of Marshall-street. March 9th, 1849. Had profuse menorrhagia every month, and was now six months advanced in pregnancy. Her pulse was weak; her bowels costive. Ordered a mild aperient daily, and to

take, in the usual manner, half-grain doses of the oxide. The next month there was much less loss, and the ensuing one very little, the medicine having produced, to use her own words, "a striking change." Here this patient was lost sight of.

#### CASE XIV.

Mrs. B., aged 29, Marlborough-street. November 9th, 1850. Five months advanced in pregnancy. Had a sudden attack of uterine haemorrhage on the preceding evening, which had continued all night, accompanied by periodical pain and expulsive sensations; which two latter, however, she had experienced more or less during the preceding fortnight or three weeks. She commenced with half a grain of the oxide in Pulv. Tragac. C., taking it three times a day, with an occasional colocynth and hyoscyamus pill, and the application once of a few leeches on there being some tenderness on pressing the abdomen. A remission of the flow and the other symptoms took place on the 10th, and entirely ceased by the

13th, leaving her weak and troubled only by leucorrhœa. Up to the 30th of November, however, she had had no return of the haemorrhage, the child being alive, and the patient stronger. She had miscarried at three months twice previously. This patient satisfactorily completed her term of pregnancy, and had a good labour (the infant living) the second week in March, 1851.

#### CASE XV.

Is now under treatment, and is a very remarkable one in several particulars, as will be seen. Mrs. F., a widow, of Hart-street, Oxford-street, sought relief from those distressing symptoms which often, for years even, harass women at that period which is called the turn of life,—namely, flushes of the face (which are always more oppressive when the menses are stopped suddenly), nervous feelings, &c. &c. This patient applied March 19th, 1851, and this is her miserable history. The catamenia first appeared at nine years and a half, and *every fortnight*, with rare intermissions;

she had a florid if not a sanguineous flow,\* *even while pregnant.* She has had two husbands, and, by the two, thirteen children; six by the first, seven by the last; none of the former lived; of the latter, one survived its birth more than three months. Both of her husbands died from accidents—the second on July 2nd, 1850. This poor creature, though then fifty-four years of age, was unwell at this time. The menses suddenly and finally ceased, as we know will be the case, from intense mental excitement. The hope of obtaining assistance for her bodily affliction caused her to consult the author. The striking points in this case are these—The unusually early period in England of the invasion of the catamenia; the fortnightly drain upon the frame, even when

\* The author having made up his mind upon many of the disputed points in medicine, has not the slightest doubt of the occurrence of regular menstruation during pregnancy, although one of the most able and experienced physician accoucheurs in London, Dr. Robert Lee, is reported to have said, that he never saw a well marked case of the kind. Now, in the several instances, in the somewhat extensive practice of the writer, during thirty-eight years, if it were not the customary catamenial flow, it was so like it, that neither the patients nor the doctor could ever tell the difference.

enceinte, and the lengthened continuance of the uterine flow, up to the age of fifty-four ; the loss of all her children, no doubt from the unnatural aberrations of the generative faculties, which, had they occurred in the present day, would, without a shadow of a doubt in the mind of the writer, have been regulated and restrained by the judicious use of the oxide. Eight of her labours required either the use of the forceps, or the performance of embryotomy. Once she had twins, which lived a short time.

Another most important application of the oxide deserves to be noticed. There is a class of cases in which uterine hæmorrhage is determined by that peculiarity of constitution well known under the name of the hæmorrhagic diathesis. Persons possessing this constitution are prone to bleed profusely from causes apparently the most trivial—as a small incision, the extraction of a tooth, &c. Francis Bennett, Esq., surgeon, of Gateshead, published in the *Lancet*, of January, 1850, two most interesting cases, tending to prove that the oxide of silver has a power of controlling this morbid disposition to hæmorrhage, and may be

advantageously employed, as a prophylactic, in pregnant women who are known to be subject to it, and who are therefore particularly exposed to the danger of haemorrhage at the period of child-birth. The first of Mr. Bennett's cases is related as follows :—

A woman, in whom the slightest scratch would cause the part to bleed for some time, had flooded greatly in five or six labours. Her sisters suffered in like manner. Mr. Bennett gave her the oxide twice a-day during the three or four last weeks of pregnancy. It is true, a dose of the ergot was administered immediately before the expulsion of the head of the infant; but in this confinement there was no haemorrhage at all; the placenta came away in fifteen minutes, and the patient had a quick recovery. The second case was not of so striking a character, but the same treatment was adopted, with a corresponding happy result.

The next report is from R. D. Harris, Esq., surgeon, Gower-street. "I hasten to send you the cases of two of my patients, where the oxide acted in the most satisfactory manner possible as a pro-

phylactic. Mrs. H., of the New Road, I had attended in three confinements, and on *each* occasion there was alarming haemorrhage immediately after the birth of the child. In the last but one the placenta was retained, and obliged to be removed by manual interposition. The flooding nevertheless continued, although all the usual means were employed—the vagina plugged, ergot of rye administered, &c. &c. The faintness existed more or less during twenty-four hours, but she ultimately recovered.

“Mrs. B., of Seymour-street, was the other case to which I have alluded. I had attended her twice before, and there was considerable flooding both before and after the birth in each of the labours; but at the third the syncope was nearly fatal, notwithstanding the adoption of the most energetic measures,—namely, plugging the vagina, compression of the abdomen, ergot taken in full doses, ice freely employed, &c. &c. It was not till twenty hours had elapsed ere this patient was free from danger. She, however, escaped. This is a brief history of their former ‘times.’ Now

for the last, which you may imagine I contemplated with dread. Fortified, however, by what I had heard from you, I gave to each patient half a grain of the oxide of silver, with one-sixth of a grain of opium, in a pill, three times a-day, just three weeks before the expected confinement up to the period of labour. *In neither of these instances was there the slightest hæmorrhage, each having quick and good labours; the placenta expelled in both cases in the usual short time after the birth of the child.* Neither of the patients had a single bad symptom, thanks to you and your remedy! and ever grateful ought these poor ladies to feel for such a result—such great and perfect succour did they obtain.

(Signed) R. H."

April 7, 1851.

The writer will now proceed to record the returns which he has received from those whom he urgently requested several years ago to try the effects of the oxide in *passive* uterine hæmorrhage and to report the results, which, with two excep-

tions, each has kindly done during the present year.

In a communication from R. D. Harris, Esq., so far back as August 5th, -1845, that gentleman says—"Mrs. H., of Calthorpe-street, Gray's-inn-lane, was confined in May last, and at the expiration of six weeks from that period the lochiaæ were as copious as in the first few days after her accouchement, notwithstanding that she had remained in the horizontal posture, and taken secale cornutum, disulphate of quinine, the mineral acids, &c., most assiduously, but in vain! A quarter of a grain dose of the oxide of silver was at length administered in a bread pill, at intervals of a few hours; the third caused pain in the hypochondriac region, and the flow ceased from that moment. This lady's sister, who was suffering much from menorrhagia, took, unknown to her medical attendant, the remainder of the pills (nine in number) out of her sister's box, and before she had finished their use she was well also. No bad effects resulted in either instance."

Dr. Stanton, of Bristol, says, June, 1848—"I

have used the remedy which you recommended to me (the oxide of silver) in many cases of leucorrhœa, and passive uterine hæmorrhage, with very satisfactory results."

R. Stewart, Esq., of Torquay, thus reports, April, 1850—"I have made three or four trials of the oxide in menorrhagia, and found it of great service; it not only arrested the hæmorrhage in a few days, but if its use was persisted in eight or ten days after the flow had ceased, it prevented a return at the next menstrual period. I think it a very valuable medicine, and shall continue to prescribe it whenever suitable cases present themselves."

The following is from Dr. J. S. Lavies, of Great George-street, Westminster, dated January 31st, 1850:—"I commence by saying that while officiating for an absent friend at the —— Dispensary, in the autumn of 1848, I had three cases of menorrhagia under my care. Of these, two were very severe, and had been both tedious and troublesome. I prescribed half-grain doses of the oxide of silver, as you suggested, and in *all* a remarkable improve-

ment took place, terminating in their complete recovery. I had occasion in the early part of this very year to employ the remedy in a case of menorrhagia, after an abortion at three months; the discharge had become very profuse and exhausting, and almost all other remedies had failed. In the course of about five days from the commencement of the use of the oxide the patient was entirely relieved, and recovered without any relapse or untoward symptom. About this time my father had a case of uterine haemorrhage of many months' duration, which had been treated by many medical men previously, but with no good effect. At my request he gave the oxide a trial, the patient perfectly recovered, and has been well ever since."

The next case is from H. T. Chapman, Esq., of Lower Seymour Street, dated May 29th, 1850. "Miss C., aged 25, tall and slight in person, and delicate in health, had been several times under my care during the last two years, for menorrhagia, which had always yielded very slowly to the ordinary remedies. In April, 1849, she had

a severe attack, and, by your advice, I determined on trying the oxide of silver. To my great satisfaction, the flow was stopped by only three grains, taken in quarter-grain doses, three times a-day : she rapidly recovered her strength under the use of the Tinct. Ferri sesqui-chlorid. This young lady had a second attack in September, 1850, while staying with a sister in the country, who wrote to London to say that my patient had again been reduced to an alarming state of weakness, and that all the means employed by her then medical attendant had failed. I immediately sent nine quarter-grain doses of the oxide, which sufficed a second time promptly to relieve the complaint.”

Dr. Gooch, of Canterbury, thus reports, May, 1850 :—“ Touching the oxide of silver, I find it very useful in passive menorrhagia, also in leucorrhœa ; but, in the latter complaint, I combine it with disulphate of quinine. I never saw any bad effects from the first-named medicine, however long continued.”

Dr. Bull, of Hereford, says, June 25th, 1850 :—“ I have used that admirable remedy, the oxide

of silver, frequently, and with good effect, in many cases of chronic menorrhagia, and, on the whole, I consider it an exceedingly valuable medicine.”

William Stowe, Esq.,\* surgeon, of Birmingham, observes, July 5th, 1850:—“ In menorrhagia, from debility occasioned by prolonged suckling, and the uterine form of leucorrhœa in young women, the oxide seems to act as a tonic and astringent without producing constipation, as alum, tannin, and the other vegetable astringents, will occasionally do: the medicine is a great favourite among my feminine friends; and I may add, that I never saw, however long it was given, any unpleasant effects worth mentioning from its use.”

The next communication is from H. T. Whittell, Esq., Surgeon, of Birmingham, also dated July 5th, 1850, who begins his letter thus:—“ The oxide of silver is a remedy upon which I depend more than on any other, in cases of menorrhagia;

\* The talented author of the well-known Chart on Poisons.

and if I believed in specifics, I should say that it is one in this disorder. I could mention its beneficial effects in other ailments, but have seen more of its action in uterine hæmorrhage than in any other class of affections."

Dr. Cargill, one of the physicians of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary, reports, July, 1850:—  
"After carefully looking through fifteen ponderous case books, recording my last ten years of professional practice, and making a digest, I have found the oxide of silver, in\* two-grain doses, thrice daily, to have had great efficacy in menorrhagia, when it depended on an asthenic condition of the system, and a low state of nervous power, and before organic disease had commenced. I have seen no bad effects from the use of this medicine."

H. Nankivel, Esq., surgeon, of Truro, who had been educated in London, says, August 24th, 1850:—"I have not now the same opportunities of observing the good effects of the oxide of silver as I had when in the metropolis. We sometimes,

\* Double the dose ever given by the author.

however, give it at our hospital, in passive uterine haemorrhage, and generally with success."

John Goodchild, Esq., surgeon, of Ealing, in a report, dated September 30th, 1850, says:— "I wish to tell you how valuable I have found the oxide of silver, which you requested me to prescribe five years ago, for I really believe that in passive menorrhagia I have never found it fail."

Dr. Joseph Lavies, whose previous report is fifth in order, gives a second, dated November 7th, 1850, in these words:—"I will now proceed to give you a brief notice of the other cases which have fallen under the notice of my father and myself, and you will see that they mark disease in three different periods of life:—

#### CASE I.

"M. T., aged 20, single. Had always enjoyed good and regular health, until she engaged in a business which obliged her to stand continually; the menstrual discharge then became excessive, causing anaemia and extreme debility. Rest was enjoined, and the oxid. argent. ordered in doses

of a quarter of a grain three times a-day. In less than a week she was well, but on the recurrence of the monthly period, the discharge was again very profuse. The same dose of the medicine was resumed, and in a fortnight she recovered, and has continued in good health, pursuing her fatiguing occupation without discomfort.”

### CASE II.

“D. G., aged 30, married, and has had a family. Was attacked with severe menorrhagia, the period lasting double its accustomed length, leaving her in an anaemic condition. Quarter-grain doses of the oxide were administered, and, in three weeks, she became quite well, has so continued, and is again pregnant.”

### CASE III.

“E. S., aged 42, married, and has had children. This was a most obstinate case of menorrhagia, under which the patient had become reduced to the lowest condition of anaemic weakness; she had been under the care of several physicians, and numerous remedies had been employed.

The oxide of silver was given, first in small, and then in larger doses, in conjunction with the cold hip-bath, and in a month a perfect cure was established. I have only to add, that I have used this remedy in several other cases of menorrhagia, and almost invariably with perfect success; and now feel confident as to the result whenever I prescribe it."

The next communication is the report of Dr. Harrison, of Frome, who says, October 31st, 1850:—"In reply to your inquiry as to my experience of the oxide of silver, I will briefly state to you that I had not tried it in any case previous to the publication of your remarks in 1845. The success which you there record induced me to give it a trial, and I am happy to be able to testify to its great value in all the haemorrhagic affections of an atonic character; and I can with confidence say that I have never observed more satisfactory results to follow the exhibition of *any* other remedial agent whatever than those which I have seen to follow the employment of the oxide.

(Signed) T. S. H."

The following is from Dr. Osborne of Dundee, dated March 31st, 1851 :

“ After having given the oxide of silver a fair trial for three or four years, in hæmoptysis, dysmenorrhœa, and particularly in menorrhagia, unaccompanied by inflammatory symptoms, I have much reason to be satisfied with the result of my practice : in several instances the good effects of the remedy were *immediately* apparent. In a case where the patient, at nearly every catamenial period for twelve or fifteen years, suffered from profuse uterine hæmorrhage, the oxide acted like a charm in restraining the flow of blood. This case very much resembles No. 13 in your book, as there are evidently fibrous tumours, some out of reach ; others have been removed on two different occasions from the cervix uteri. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the obligation I am under to you for bringing the value of this medicine so prominently before the profession, and am glad to hear that a second edition of your excellent work has been called for.

(Signed)

G. M. O.”

Dr. Tunstall, of Bath, "has found the oxide to be deserving of all the encomiums that have been passed upon it." He gave it, in one obstinate case of chronic menorrhagia, without, as far as could be ascertained, any structural disease, but which, being so similar in its details to others, need not be inserted here. The conclusion, however (the Doctor says, April 14th, 1851), of the case, which I reported to you in the winter, was perfectly satisfactory. The patient persevered with the oxide, the menorrhagia disappeared, and she has returned to Paris perfectly well.

The author can only recollect one case of hæmaturia, which he saw with a friend, C. F. Dupasquier, Esq., surgeon, of Pall Mall, who thus relates it.

Mr. S., aged 77, discovered on the afternoon of June 13th, 1849, in attempting to pass his urine, that he voided "pure blood only;" this having occurred on a second effort, he applied for medical assistance; he had complained for some months previously of pain in his back,

which, from its seat and character, was attributed to an attack of lumbago; in all other respects he was in his usual health: he said that about ten years ago, he had experienced a similar attack, which soon yielded to the treatment that was at that time adopted. He was recommended to keep the horizontal position, to take a rose acid mixture, his food cool, and to sponge the loins with cold vinegar and water from the above period until the 29th of the month, in consequence of repeated returns of the bleeding. He had on different occasions the superacetate of lead and opium, gallic acid, turpentine, and injections into the bladder of a solution of sulphate of alum, on the supposition that some of the blood having passed in clots, it might have proceeded from the prostatic veins. On the latter date he was seen by the surgeon who had attended him on the former occasion, and he advised the continued use of the lead in an infusion of gum Arabic, and the application of ice to the region of the bladder; he had also Ruspini's styptic. These remedies, like the former, afforded temporary benefit only. On the 10th of July, he

was seen by Sir James Eyre, and, judging from his experience of the effect of the oxide of silver in other cases of haemorrhage, he suggested a trial of it in quarter-grain doses, three times a-day. The plan was attended with marked benefit; and in consequence of the total disappearance of the blood in his urine, was discontinued until the 23rd, when, on the advent of another attack, it was again had recourse to, but in the shape of powder, in consequence of the dryness of the fauces, which prevented him swallowing the pills: it was followed by the same result as before. On the 28th, he became so low as to require the administration of brandy and cordials, by means of which his strength was kept up; and by the use of bark and nourishing food, he recovered so far as to be enabled to leave his bed. He has now, October 16th, had no return of the bleeding, with the exception of a slight tinge in the urine, and that six weeks ago; he complains of the pain in his back, which at times he describes as being very severe, but is now between the shoulders. He has regained flesh,

and says he feels "as well as he can expect to be," the only difference in his appearance being more aged than before the attack.

(Signed) C. F. D.

62, Pall Mall.

Although the author has had the care, during so many years, of several cases of haemorrhage from the bowels, he has only preserved, happily for the patience of the reader, two instances, as under.

#### CASE I.

Was that of Mr. G., a respectable tradesman in the Edgware-road, and offers some peculiarity. He is a middle-aged man, married, and very temperate in his habits; came for advice, December 10th, 1844, having become very weak, after half-a-year's suffering from haemorrhage from the bowels. No haemorrhoids were present; he would lose much blood every time he went to the closet, *particularly whenever the wind was in the east*; of this there was no doubt, because there is a threatening even now at the change of air alluded to: he

began with a moderate dose of the oxide, nothing contra-indicating ; and in three days, found a manifest benefit, and in September, 1850, gratefully said: “I took your medicine whenever the bleeding came on, which used to exhaust me so much, during the last four years : it *always* checked it effectually, and before I applied to you, it would *often* pour from me when standing behind the counter.” (His own words.)

## CASE II.

Mrs. B., a widow, of Heddon-street, Regent-street, aged 42, consulted the author, June 4th, 1850 ; her husband died two years after their marriage, fifteen years ago ; left her with one child, which she suckled three years ; had the menses but once after the birth of this infant ; always had hæmorrhage from the bowels on being frightened or greatly distressed ; lost her mother in January, 1847 ; the quantity of blood on four consecutive days on this occasion was terrific ; as she said, it came away in a pure stream, without alvine evacuation. On the next outbreak, in 1850, she lost her

sister, and this time, during six days, the loss was as frightful as before, but on this occasion diarrhœa accompanied it. The following pills were prescribed : B. Oxyde argenti, gr. iij., Micæ Panis, ʒj., Ft. pilul. xij., sumat duas ter quotidie. On the fourth day the flow began gradually to lessen, and on July 18th had entirely ceased. It is true it was vicarious, but the excessive discharge of blood was destroying the constitution of this patient, who gratefully stated herself to be quite well, March 27th, 1851.

This case concludes our detail of the relief which the oxide has afforded to those who have been afflicted with hæmorrhage of the atonic or chronic kind ; but before the conclusion of the present report, it would be impossible not to speak of the value of this medicine in a few other distressing ailments. And first, of leucorrhœa, that bane to the comfort of most of the gentler sex, at one period or another of their lives, and which, by its excess, causes pain in the lumbar region, malaise, and even nausea and indigestion. To attempt to dis-

tinguish between uterine or vaginal leucorrhœa, is not necessary for our purpose here ; the younger the patient, the more likely will she be to have constitutional irritation, or, if the complaint should have continued unchecked for a lengthened period. It is for this latter kind that the oxide, taken three times a day, with the simultaneous use of the following injection, has been found, in the practice of the author, very efficacious :—  
℞ Argenti nitratis, ʒj., Aquæ distillatæ, half a pint.\* Injectio quater die utenda. Or this may be used—  
℞ Plumbi diacetatis, ʒiss., Zinci sulphatis, ʒj., Aquæ distillatæ, one pint. Injectio, &c.

Dr. Gooch, of Canterbury, Dr. Stanton, of Bristol, J. F. Clarke, Esq., of Gerrard-street,

\* A caution should always be given to patients using this application, that, without care, it will stain the linen. As any information which may benefit our patients cannot be out of place in a practical work of this character, a method of taking out such stains as are produced by the use of the nitrate of silver injection, the best of all is subjoined :—Cover the discoloured garment with tincture of iodine, and after this apply a solution of the hypo-sulphite of soda.—ACTON's *Practical Surgical Remarks*. Second Edition.

F. Bennett, Esq., of Gateshead, and others, all speak well of the oxide in this complaint. And next, as to the superiority of the oxide over the nitrate of silver in epilepsy, the author, who has prescribed the former certainly once a day on the average, during, as has been said, nearly ten years, *never saw any bad effects from its employment.* And why? Because the patients are always either cured, or have derived all the benefit which the medicine is capable of affording, *in suitable cases*, before such phenomenon can occur. His personal experience of its efficacy has not been great, extending only to a few instances of epilepsy, but in all of which the benefit obtained was most striking. Having culled, however, the opinions of some friends, their reports shall be briefly given. The first is from Dr. Boisragon, of Cheltenham, dated so long back as 1845, and thus states, "I have used the oxide of silver in preference to the nitrate extensively in epilepsy, and have also almost invariably found its value in spasmodic and neuralgic affections. The next notice is from M. B. Morgan, Esq., of Lichfield, dated July, 1845, who

says, that in a case where he prescribed from half a grain to a grain twice a day, for a lady who was epileptic, she "found more benefit from it than from anything which she had previously taken." Dr. Samuel Fenwick, of North Shields, in a letter to Dr. Cargill, of Newcastle, (a friend of the author,) says, under date June, 1850, "I have used it frequently in epilepsy, and though the oxide has been persevered in for three or four months, I have never seen any hurtful effects from its use. It may be mentioned as interesting, on the authority of Dr. Webster, that this frightful malady, this destroyer of all comfort, this enemy which usually comes suddenly, "like a thief in the night," is less frequently transmitted by the mother than the father, and that it is more common with males than females, in the proportion of 575 to 376. S. Solly, Esq., one of the surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital, has given the following character of the oxide of silver, which from so justly eminent a practitioner, is invaluable: "One of the worst cases of epilepsy," this gentleman says, "that I ever knew, independent of organic disease,

got well under its employment; the patient had been ill fifteen years, he took the medicine twelve months; he has been quite well above six years. It is one of the most valuable medicines that we possess."

Lastly, though time presses, and the writer feels that a lapse of six years has been enough, not more than enough, however, for perfecting this second report of his success, a few words must be said on the subject of chorea, or St. Vitus's Dance. Being a disorder of nervous debility, disulphate of quinine, in suitable doses, with the daily employment of the bath, which is justly relied on at L'Hôpital des Enfans Malades, at Paris, composed of  $\frac{3}{4}$ iii. of the sulphuret of potash in a bath of tepid water, which may be used two or three times a-week, had been the mode adopted by the author formerly for the cure of chorea; but though this plan proved successful, no rapid recoveries rewarded him till the oxide of silver was had recourse to. Two instances only can be afforded in exemplification—both were girls.

## CASE I.

Harriet C., aged 8, had been afflicted with chorea three months; sought relief March 5th, 1850; it would be useless to describe her state to the profession, who are so familiar with the complaint; her grotesque antics were fearful to behold; she could not sleep, but disturbed her family by her cries and moans night after night. She had no appetite; had a slow pulse, and was costive. A pill composed of four grains of Ext. coloc. c., with half Ext. hyoscyami, was ordered to be taken every morning, and (in compliance with his uniform rule, not to add any medicine to the oxide which might by possibility detract from its character) the writer gave a quarter-grain dose with two grains of P. acaciæ thrice daily; no one who had not seen the effect would believe that in two days, or three at most, the cure began. The nights became quiet, as the parents can thankfully testify; the appetite returned; the harlequinade of the limbs ceased gradually; and though the specific like remedy was continued several weeks, this

little girl appeared to be quite well in three. She had been under the care of two well qualified medical gentlemen before the author was called in.

### CASE II.

The next case of chorea was that of M. D., a tradesman's daughter, in Robert-street, Grosvenor-square, aged 12; came March 20th, 1851; had been an in-patient at one of the large metropolitan hospitals exactly a month without benefit. The jactitation and grotesque movements were violent, and the loss of sleep so often pathognomonic, distressing; she was also inclined to be costive. The dose ordered of the oxide, *in mucilage* only, was a quarter of a grain, thrice daily, with a colo-cynth and hyoscyamus pill occasionally interposed. The nights by the 23rd of the month, three days afterwards, were more tranquil, and the limbs more under the dominion of the will. On the 27th the dose of the medicine was increased to one-third of a grain, and ten days after this period, to half-a-grain. On the 16th of April, she was nearly well, and with the exception of a more

generous diet being instituted, took nothing whatever but what has been mentioned.

The grateful thanks of the author must now, in conclusion, be rendered, not only to those numerous friends (carefully selected and anxiously retained during a stirring professional life of nine-tenths of half a century) for the help which they have given to him, both literally and orally, in this their united search after truth; the press, too, and the profession very generally, have assisted; one by generous commendation, the other by manfully working with him, trusting to the honest guidance of a stranger; each and all seeking the only reward worthy of the name, the pure and unsordid delight of doing good! only four individuals were unable to discover, they said, any virtue in the medicine. These gentlemen must either have gone to the wrong laboratory, or there might have been a resisting idiosyncrasy in the patients, or there might have been mental idiosyncrasy in these medical men—who can tell? However it may have been, all that now remains is for it to be *distinctly under-*

*stood* that the time for suing for information upon our subject, in *formâ pauperis*, is past; the writer declares, *suo periculo*, that there is no medicine so powerful, in not only the diseases already touched upon, but in some others yet to be set forth, as the oxide of silver, in small doses. The jury having anxiously deliberated upon the question; they have here declared the result in open court; and their verdict, all but unanimously agreed upon, will, let it not be doubted, assuredly stand.

THE END.

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